

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment to the claims was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Fred Hernandez on 3 December 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 51, line 1: replace the word "anchors" with "filaments".

In the specification, the first paragraph should now read:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/544,930 (Attorney Docket No. 020489-000110US), filed April 7, 2000, now US Patent 6,629,534, which claimed the benefit under 35 USC 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/128,690 (Attorney Docket No. 020489-000100US), filed on April 9, 1999 under 37 CFR §1.78(a). The full disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to disclose or render obvious the combination of features as claimed. In particular, the prior art of record fails to disclose a method of modifying a heart valve by placing anchors on the annulus placing a filament through the anchors and tightening

the filament to bring reduce regurgitation in the valve while accessing the valve from a femoral venous location.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LINDSEY BACHMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-6208. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 7:30 am to 5 pm, and alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on 571-272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. B./
Examiner, Art Unit 3734

/Todd E Manahan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3734